

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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R 102101Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2515

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 0190

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: CONCERN OF FOREIGN SECRETARY AT IMPLICATIONS OF TRADE REFORM
ACT FOR DOMINICAN INTERESTS

1. AT REQUEST FONSEC GOMEZ BERGES, CHARGE AND ECONOMIC COUNSELOR CALLED ON HIM JAN 9 TO DISCUSS PROVISIONS AND IMPLICATIONS OF TRADE REFORM ACT. GOMEZ WONDERED ABOUT EFFECTS OF ACT AND SOUGHT ASSURANCE THAT IT WOULD NOT HAVE UNFAVORABLE IMPACT ON DOMINICAN INTERESTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE NOTED THAT ARTICLE HAD ALREADY APPEARED IN NEWSPAPER THAT AFTERNOON (THE LEFT-LEANING LA NOTICIA) ALLEGING THAT NEW LAW WOULD BE DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST D.R., AS WELL AS AGAINST OTHER PRODUCERS OF BAUXITE, SUGAR AND OTHER COMMODITIES BECAUSE OF THEIR ASSOCIATION TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS.

2. THE EMBOFFS NOTED THAT (A) THE PRESS REPORTS OF THE REACTION OF VENEZUELA AND SOME OTHER LA COUNTRIES TO THE GSP PROVISION HAD OBSCURED THE BENEFITS OF TRA; (B) THE LEGISLATION SPECIFICALLY MADE OPEC MEMBERS INELIGIBLE FOR GSP BENEFITS UNLESS THEY TOOK CERTAIN STEPS, A PROVISION TO WHICH THE
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EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAD EXPRESSED OPPOSITION;

(C) AS REGARDS GSP BENEFICIARY STATUS FOR LDC'S GENERALLY, THE PERTINENT PROVISIONS REQUIRED THE PRESIDENT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT A COUNTRY'S DESIRE TO BE DESIGNATED AS A GSP AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT ASSURED THE U.S. IT WOULD PROVIDE EQUITABLE AND REASONABLE ACCESS TO ITS MARKETS AND BASIC COMMODITY RESOURCES; (D) INDICATIONS WERE THAT THE ACT'S PROVISIONS WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE INTERPRETED TO EXCLUDE FROM GSP BENEFITS MEMBERS OF PRODUCERS ASSOCIATIONS WITH WHICH D.R. WAS AFFILIATED, UNDER EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES; (E) THE LEGISLATION SHOULD HAVE A FAVORABLE EFFECT ON DOMINICAN TRADE; AND (F) THE EMBASSY WAS AWAITING FUTHER GUIDANCE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGISLATION.

3. DURING THE DISCUSSION, THE FONSEC WAS GIVEN AN AIDE-MEMOIRE WITH THE TEXT OF THE PORTION OF SECTION 502(C) OF THE ACT CITED IN PARA 10 OF STATE 282967. (THE AIDE-MEMOIRE HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS TODAY.) THE FONSEC WAS TOLD, IN REPLY TO HIS QUERY, THAT IT WAS UP TO COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN BECOMING GSP BENEFICIARIES TO DETERMINE THE FORM OF THE RESPONSE THEY WISHED TO MAKE TO THESE PROVISIONS.

4. IN RESPONSE TO GOMEZ' REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE LEGISLATION, THE TEXT OF TITLE V OF THE ACT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DELIVERED TO HIM.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR THE EMBASSY TO RECEIVE WHATEVER SPECIFIC GUIDANCE THE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE AT THIS JUNCTURE, WITH INFORMATION BEYOND THAT ALREADY PROVIDED ON THE ACT AND WITH INTERPRETATIONS OF IT, THAT MIGHT BE USED TO BRIEF THE FONSEC (AND OTHER HIGH DOMINICAN OFFICIALS) CONCERNING ITS EXPECTED EFFECTS ON DOMINICAN TRADE, AND SPECIFICALLY TO HELP TO REFUTE ALLEGATIONS THAT THE TRA WILL DAMAGE DOMINICAN INTERESTS.
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